

Serial No. 10/643,919

REMARKS

Claims 11-39 were pending in the present application. Claims 11-23 and 27-39 have been canceled herein. Thus claims 24-26 are now pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving copies of forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 20, 2003, December 16, 2003, and June 22, 2004 on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Claims 30 and 31 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 11, 12, and 15 are rejected for obviousness type double patenting. Claims 11, 12, and 15 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 11-18, 20-22, 27, 32, and 34-38 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over EP 0 793 405. Claims 11-18, 20-22, 27, 32, and 34-38 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 23 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over EP 0 793 405 further in view of Kawakita et al. 5,977,490. Claims 23 and 39 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 11-18, 20, 22, 27, 32, 34-36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iino et al. 6,207,259. Claims 11-18, 20, 22, 27, 32, 34-36 and 38 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

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Claims 23 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iino et al. 6,207,259 further in view of Kawakita et al. 5,977,490. Claims 23 and 39 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 11-14, 16-18, 21 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kawakita et al. 5,977,490. Claims 11-14, 16-18, 21 and 27-29 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

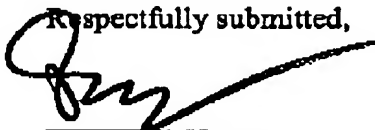
Claims 11-14, 16-19, 21, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hatakeyama et al. 5,972,482. Claims 11-14, 16-19, 21, 28 and 29 are canceled herein rendering the rejection moot.

The indication of allowability with regard to claims 24-26 is noted with appreciation. Claim 24 has been amended herein to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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